

CLAIMS

1 1. In a computer based system having a touchscreen, a method for distinguishing  
2 between finger contact and stylus contact comprising:

3 detecting contact with said touchscreen;

4 generating contact information for said detected contact with said touchscreen;

5 comparing said contact information corresponding to said detected contact with  
6 contact criteria; and,

7 based on said comparing of said contact information, determining whether said  
8 contact was initiated by a finger or a stylus.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said contact criteria includes a threshold value  
2 for comparing said contact information.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises:  
2 for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to  
3 said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as said finger contact.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises:  
2 for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to  
3 said stylus contact, interpreting said detected contact as said stylus contact.

1 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2 offsetting an on-screen pointer a predetermined distance from said detected  
3 contact.

1 6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2 detecting the duration of said contact.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2 detecting the duration between said contact and a second contact.

1 8. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2 displaying an activated point in said touchscreen beneath said detected contact.

1 9. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2 converting pointer control information to text.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 based on said determining step, presenting a visual interface in said touchscreen  
3 corresponding to said finger contact or said stylus contact.

1 11. In a computer based system having a touchscreen, a method for distinguishing  
2 between a finger and a stylus comprising:

3 detecting contact with said touchscreen;

4 generating contact information for said detected contact with said touchscreen;

5 comparing said contact information corresponding to said detected contact with  
6 contact criteria;

7 based on said comparing of said contact information, determining whether said  
8 contact was initiated by a finger or a stylus;

9 for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to  
10 said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as a finger contact; and, offsetting  
11 an on-screen pointer a predetermined distance from said detected contact; and  
12 detecting the duration of said contact and the duration between said contact and a  
13 second contact; and,

14 for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to  
15 said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as a stylus contact and displaying  
16 an activated point in said touchscreen beneath said detected contact.

1 12. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having  
2 a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to  
3 perform the steps of:

4 detecting contact with a touchscreen;

5 generating contact information for said detected contact with said touchscreen;

6 comparing said contact information corresponding to said detected contact with  
7 contact criteria; and,

8 based on said comparing of said contact information, determining whether said  
9 contact was initiated by a finger or a stylus.

1 13. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said contact criteria includes  
2 a threshold value for comparing said contact information.

1 14. The machine readable storage of claim 12, further causing the machine to  
2 perform the step of:

3 for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to  
4 said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as a finger contact.

1 15. The machine readable storage of claim 12, further causing the machine to  
2 perform the step of:

3 for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to  
4 said stylus contact, interpreting said detected contact as a stylus contact.

1 16. The machine readable storage of claim 14, further causing the machine to  
2 perform the step of:

3 offsetting an on-screen pointer a predetermined distance from said detected  
4 contact.

1 17. The machine readable storage of claim 14, further causing the machine to

2 perform the step of:

3 detecting the duration of said contact.

1 18. The machine readable storage of claim 17, further causing the machine to

2 perform the step of:

3 detecting the duration between said contact and a second contact.

1 19. The machine readable storage of claim 15, further causing the machine to

2 perform the step of:

3 displaying an activated point in said touchscreen beneath said detected contact.

1 20. The machine readable storage of claim 15, further causing the machine to

2 perform the step of:

3 converting pointer control information to text.

1 21. The machine readable storage of claim 12, further causing the machine to

2 perform the step of:

3 based on said determining step, presenting a visual interface in said touchscreen  
4 corresponding to said finger contact or said stylus contact.